

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

*Reviewed on "Across the Fence" on WCAX
Monday, December 1, 2008, 12:10 p.m.*

by Amy Howlett, Jessica Joyal, and Judy Simpson

Bishop, Nic. **NIC BISHOP FROGS.** Scholastic Nonfiction, 2008. \$17.99. ISBN 9780439877558. Grades 3-6.

For the budding young scientist, up close photographs and facts about frogs everywhere in the world.

Kanell, Beth. **THE DARKNESS UNDER THE WATER.** Candlewick, 2008. \$16.99. ISBN 9780763637194. Grades 6-9.

A young French Canadian Abenaki girl in Waterford, Vermont, sees the darker side of government intervention during the eugenics movement.

Katz, Jon. **IZZY & LENORE: TWO DOGS, AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY, AND ME.** Villard, 2008. \$24.00. ISBN 9781400066308. Audiobook, large print editions. Adult

After adopting a sensitive border collie by the name of Izzy, author and dog make visits together to hospice patients. Interspersed are stories of young pup Lenore, and Katz's personal struggles with depression.

Larrson, Stieg. **THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO.** Reg Keeland, translator. Knopf, 2008. \$24.95. ISBN 9780307269751. Also audiobook. Adult.

A financial journalist and a young computer hacker team up to uncover seedy family secrets around a long ago murder.

Lehane, Dennis. **THE GIVEN DAY.** William Morrow, 2008. \$27.95. ISBN 9780688163181. Also audiobook, large print editions. Adult.

Set in Boston during and after WWI, this epic novel tells the story of two families – one black, one white – and the critical events of their time.

Macaulay, David. **THE WAY WE WORK.** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. \$35.00. ISBN 9780618233786. Youth and adult.

An entertaining and well-researched visual trip through the workings of the human body. Lively illustrations accompany detailed text; great for children, families, and anyone interested in how our bodies work.



McMullen, Kate & Jim McMullen. **I'M BAD!** Joanna Cotler, 2008. \$16.99. ISBN 9780061229718. Pre-school, early grades.

The latest picture book from the creators of *I Stink!* and *I'm Dirty!* A naughty and very hungry dinosaur romps around in vibrant illustrations – bad behavior was never so fun.

Petterson, Per. **OUT STEALING HORSES.** Anne Born, translator. Graywolf, 2007. \$22.00. ISBN 9781555974701. Also audiobook, large print, paper editions. Adult.

A beautifully written novel about youth and memory. Trond Sander is a widower in his sixties who moves to a remote part of eastern Norway. Remembrances and forgiveness.

Seegar, Laura Vaccaro. **DOG AND BEAR: TWO'S COMPANY.** Roaring Brook, 2008. \$12.95. ISBN 9781596432734. Preschool to first grade.

Dog and Bear are friends, but even the best of friends sometimes fall out

Shaffer, Mary Ann & Annie Barrows. **GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY.** Dial, 2008. \$22.00. ISBN 9780385340991. Also audiobook, large print, paper editions. Adult.

Book clubs will love this novel in correspondence about the literary conversations in Guernsey during the first World War.

Varon, Sara. **ROBOT DREAMS.** Roaring Brook, 2007. \$16.95. ISBN 9781596431089. Grades 4 Up. Paper.

A kid-pleaser, this graphic novel tells the story of Dog and his best friend, the Robot he puts together from a kit. Their separation leads to amusing and curious adventures.

Vowell, Sarah. **THE WORDY SHIPMATES.** Riverhead, 2008. \$25.95. ISBN 9781594489990. Also audiobook. Adult.

A humorous and informative look at the Puritans and their journey to America. Vowell considers how current problems in America are tied to those of the past.

Wroblewski, David. **THE STORY OF EDGAR SAWTELLE.** Ecco, 2008. \$25.95. ISBN 97800613742. Also audiobook, large print, paper editions. Adult.

A boy and the dogs he loves to work with people this first novel set in the wilderness of northern Wisconsin.



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